

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Original) A resin composition, characterized in that said composition is obtained by copolymerizing a polyvinyl alcohol having an average polymerization degree of 1300 or less and at least one or more polymerizable vinyl monomer(s) in a weight ratio of 6:4 to 9:1.

2. (Original) The resin composition according to claim 1, wherein the polyvinyl alcohol has an average polymerization degree of 900 or less.

3. (Original) The resin composition according to claim 1, wherein the polyvinyl alcohol has an average polymerization degree of 200 to 600.

4. (Currently Amended) The resin composition according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1, wherein the polyvinyl alcohol is a partially hydrolyzed polyvinyl alcohol.

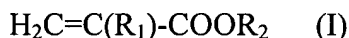
5. (Currently Amended) The resin composition according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1, wherein the polymerizable vinyl monomer is selected from an unsaturated carboxylic acid, an unsaturated carboxylic acid ester, an unsaturated nitrile, an unsaturated amide, an aromatic vinyl, an aliphatic vinyl, an unsaturated bond-containing heterocycle and a salt thereof.

6. (Currently Amended) The resin composition according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1, wherein the composition is obtained by copolymerizing two or more polymerizable vinyl monomers, and at least one of said vinyl monomers is an unsaturated carboxylic acid or a salt thereof and at least one of said vinyl monomers is an unsaturated carboxylic acid ester.

7. (Original) The resin composition according to claim 6, wherein the unsaturated carboxylic acid or a salt thereof is selected from the group consisting of acrylic acid, methacrylic acid, crotonic acid, fumaric acid, maleic acid, itaconic acid and a salt thereof, and the unsaturated carboxylic acid ester is selected from the group consisting of methyl

methacrylate, methyl acrylate, ethyl methacrylate, ethyl acrylate, butyl methacrylate, butyl acrylate, isobutyl methacrylate, isobutyl acrylate, cyclohexyl methacrylate, cyclohexyl acrylate, 2-ethylhexyl methacrylate, 2-ethylhexyl acrylate, hydroxyethyl methacrylate, hydroxyethyl acrylate, an ester of polyethylene glycol and methacrylic acid, an ester of polyethylene glycol and acrylic acid, and an ester of polypropylene glycol and acrylic acid.

8. (Original) The resin composition according to claim 7, wherein the unsaturated carboxylic acid, its salt, and the unsaturated carboxylic acid ester are those represented by the general formula (I):



wherein R_1 represents a hydrogen atom or a methyl group and R_2 represents a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, or a salt thereof.

9. (Original) The resin composition according to claim 8, wherein the unsaturated carboxylic acid or a salt thereof is acrylic acid or a salt thereof, and the unsaturated carboxylic acid ester is methyl methacrylate.

10. (Original) The resin composition according to claim 9, wherein the weight ratio of acrylic acid or a salt thereof and methyl methacrylate in the copolymerization is 3:7 to 0.5:9.5.

11. (Currently Amended) The resin composition according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1, characterized in that the composition is obtained by copolymerizing a partially hydrolyzed polyvinyl alcohol having an average polymerization degree of 300 to 500 and a polymerizable vinyl monomer in a weight ratio of 6:4 to 9:1, wherein said polymerizable vinyl monomer is a combination of acrylic acid and methyl methacrylate combined in the weight ratio of 3:7 to 0.5:9.5 in the copolymerization.

12. (Currently Amended) The resin composition according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1, wherein the weight ratio of the partially hydrolyzed polyvinyl alcohol

having an average polymerization degree of 300 to 500, methyl methacrylate and acrylic acid in the copolymerization is 60 to 90: 7 to 38: 0.5 to 12.

13. (Currently Amended) A coating agent, comprising the resin composition according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 12~~ claim 1.

14. (Currently Amended) A coating agent for medicines, animal drugs, agricultural chemicals, fertilizers or foods, comprising the resin composition according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 12~~ claim 1.

15. (Original) A medicine, an animal drug, an agricultural chemical, a fertilizer or a food, which is coated with the coating agent according to claim 14.

16. (Currently Amended) A binder, comprising the resin composition according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 12~~ claim 1.

17. (New) A resin composition, characterized in that said composition is obtained by copolymerizing a polyvinyl alcohol having an average polymerization degree of 900 or less, and at least one or more polymerizable vinyl monomer(s) selected from the group consisting of (a) an unsaturated carboxylic acid selected from acrylic acid, crotonic acid, fumaric acid, maleic acid and itaconic acid, or a salt thereof and (b) an unsaturated carboxylic acid ester selected from methyl methacrylate, methyl acrylate, ethyl methacrylate, ethyl acrylate, butyl methacrylate, butyl acrylate, isobutyl methacrylate, isobutyl acrylate, cyclohexyl methacrylate, cyclohexyl acrylate, 2-ethylhexyl methacrylate, 2-ethylhexyl acrylate, an ester of polyethylene glycol and methacrylic acid, an ester of polyethylene glycol and methacrylic acid, and an ester of polypropylene glycol and acrylic acid in a weight ratio of 6:4 to 9:1, provided that a copolymer of a polyvinyl alcohol and a polymerizable vinyl monomer capable of forming a chemical bond when reacted with a carboxyl group is excluded, and a copolymer of a polyvinyl alcohol having an average polymerization degree of 1500 or 1700 and an unsaturated carboxylic acid, a salt thereof, and an unsaturated carboxylic acid ester is excluded.

18. (New) The resin composition according to claim 17, wherein the unsaturated carboxylic acid or a salt thereof is acrylic acid or a salt thereof, and the unsaturated carboxylic acid ester is methyl methacrylate.

19. (New) A coating agent for tablets or granules, comprising the resin composition according to claim 17.

20. (New) A coating agent for tablets or granules, comprising the resin composition according to claim 18.